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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I strongly urge you to deny the petitions to weaken or gut portions of the 1996 Telecommunications act as regards Internet providers. It is imperative that you place the interests of consumers and citizens above those of corporate behemoths that regularly use their size and clout to stifle competition and gouge their customers. Ensuring free and fair competition through regulation is a one of the FCC's primary tasks, which dictates you reject these petitions.

Do not believe the misleading, inaccurate and untrue claims by USTelecom, et al as they mischaracterize and downplay the positive impact of small providers on the competitive market.

In my neighborhood, the only choices are DSL and cable. AT&T's DSL was slow, expensive and lacking in reliability. It was clear that AT&T was interested only in charging as much as possible without improving service. While speed and reliability of cable from Comcast is much better, it is also very expensive. Once the promotional period ended, I was forced to drop the TV service and opt for a slower Internet speed to afford their product, which is still a struggle to pay. Meanwhile, friends in other parts of the city with fiberoptic service from Sonic and other small providers enjoy gigabit speeds without data usage caps for 30-50% less than my 60mb/s service.

Granting the petitioned changes would prevent small providers from expanding and upgrading the telecommunications infrastructure in more areas of the city something AT&T and Comcast have refused to do. Do not gut the 1996 Telecom Act!

Comcast, AT&T and others use limited-time-offers to claim that their rates are much lower than they are: but those deals are offered for limited times, require contracts (1-2 years) and the special rates for existing customers are substantially higher than offers to new customers.

Reject big telecom efforts to stifle competition and harm competitors and consumers. Protect the rights of we citizens whom you are sworn to serve.

Dave Reddy